



Middlewich Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1952

by the

Medical Officer of Health

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1952

To the Chairman and members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Heath of the Town during the year 1952.

Section A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1956 acres
Population — Registrar General's latest estimate of Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	6798
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2048
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£32011
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£125

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General.

Live Births :		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	101	62	39
Illegitimate	...	5	2	3

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, 15.59

Still Births :				
Legitimate	...	3	2	1
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1

Rate per 1000 toal (live and still) births ... 36.36

Deaths	...	...	72	30	42
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population,	10.58				
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor	...	...			11.32

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1000 live births ... 18.86

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live
births ... 19.80

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate
live births ... —

Deaths from :

Cancer (all ages) ... 14

The following table compares the main statistics for 1952 with the years 1941 - 1951 :

Year		Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuber- culosis
1941	...	6435	18.18	10.72	58.82	10	1
1942	...	6254	20.94	10.71	53.43	7	4
1943	...	6097	20.82	10.82	23.62	9	1
1944	...	6020	21.59	12.62	38.46	12	6
1945	...	5926	21.26	11.47	55.55	11	2
1946	...	6206	21.10	9.82	22.90	8	2
1947	...	6372	27.46	11.45	40.00	11	3
1948	...	6576	19.60	9.12	23.81	10	1
1949	...	6587	14.70	9.41	10.30	10	3
1950	...	6672	17.38	11.99	51.72	9	1
1951	...	6696	16.27	11.49	27.52	14	1
1952	...	6798	15.59	10.58	18.86	14	—

CAUSES OF DEATH 1952

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

					M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	1	5	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	4	5	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	9	4	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other Heart disease	...	...	...	7	10	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	3	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	—	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	3	4	7
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL					30	42	72

Section B – General Provision of Health Services in the Area

(A) PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(1) Staff

W. S. Slater, M.B., CH.B.,M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared by the other 3 Mid-Ches- hire Districts, the County Council and the N. & M-C H.M.C.)
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole time)	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid-Ches- hire Districts)
F. Costello, A.R.SAN.I. Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other foods	Whole time Sanitary Inspector	(Middletown Urban District Council only)

(2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middletown Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of samples twice monthly from this area.

(3) Environmental Services

Details of the other Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Middletown Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services: School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services.

**(C) PROVIDED BY THE MID-CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(Under the auspices of the County Council)

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee provided the following services :

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes

The work done during the year 1952 in Middlewich Urban District is detailed as follows :

Diphtheria Immunisation :

No. of children who have completed treatment during 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
In addition, 127 booster injections were given.							
The percentage of children under the age of five years who have received this protective treatment is	...	...	...	...	...	...	43%

Vaccination against Smallpox :

No. of persons who have been vaccinated during 1952	21
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As to the immunisation against whooping cough, this has not been unduly pushed as its efficiency though likely to be good has not yet been fully substantiated. It seems likely that in the near future there will be introduced on the market a combined prophylactic which will safeguard children from both whooping cough and diphtheria. When this has been fully proved to be both safe and effective, I feel sure that the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee will make it available for use by the local doctors. This will enable the course of treatment against both diseases to be reduced from five injections as at present to three.

The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.

The Service provided in the area has dealt with the Middlewich cases expeditiously and without serious complaints throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of illness—Care and After-care

A variety of medical equipment and comforts were provided for the use of the sick in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service

Though here again this service is fully utilised in the Mid-Cheshire area, the demand for domestic assistance has been very low in the Middlewich town itself.

(D) ISOLATION HOSPITAL SERVICES

Davenham Isolation Hospital under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee provided hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases.

Section C – Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The Town's Public Water Supply was maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition. One house which had been supplied from a private source, found to be polluted, was connected to the Public Supply. All houses in the District are now supplied from the mains and there are no standpipes, the houses all having their own water taps

Fifteen bacteriological reports on the Town's Supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the sewers were extended as follows :

Chadwick Fields Housing Site:

Storm Sewers	...	...	261 yards of 15 in. pipes
			178 yards of 12 in. pipes
			229 yards of 9 in. pipes
			301 yards of 6 in. pipes
Foul Sewers	...	...	498 yards of 9 in. pipes
			420 yards of 6 in. pipes

These sewers have been laid for houses in course of erection and for others which are contemplated.

No other work beyond maintenance was carried out to the sewers or main sewage works during the year.

The small sewage plant at Cledford which takes drainage from about 50 houses was cleared out and new filtering media provided.

Proposed new Sewage Works

By the end of the year a scheme for the new works on a fresh site had been prepared by the Consultant for consideration by the Council.

Closet Accommodation

Twelve pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year, leaving 40 pails and 5 privies still in use.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection of refuse is by means of a Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.

Informal notices were compiled with for the renewal of 105 dustbins. The refuse tip was free from any nuisance and a fair amount of surplus "diggings" was received which was used as cover.

Income from the sale of salvage was £540/11/3.

Camping Sites

A licence was issued for one caravan to occupy a site for a period of one year. There are no other sites licensed in the district.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

The Council employs a rodent operative under the control of the Sanitary Inspector, but there is insufficient work to warrant his services full time. Accordingly, he is employed part-time on other work, but Rodent Control takes priority.

All Factories and Business Premises in the area make use of this service and have agreed to the Council giving treatment as required and charging them with the cost. Dwelling houses are treated free of cost.

During the year 14 treatments were given to Business Premises, 9 to agricultural properties, 14 to dwellings and 4 at the Refuse Tip and Sewage Works for minor infestations by rats. 20 Business Premises, 1 agricultural property and 9 dwellings were treated for minor infestations by mice.

A 10% test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation.

Recreation Fields and Open Spaces

All existing playgrounds were maintained and the new sports ground "Fountains Field" was opened. On this sports ground there are two Tennis Courts, 1 Bowling Green and a Miniature Golf Course, all of which proved very popular and were much used.

Factories Inspections

Under the Factories Act, 1937, the following inspections were carried out :

FACTORIES INSPECTION

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	51	4	—
(ii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	36	51	4	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2.).....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	5	—

It was only necessary to issue 4 notices in respect of defects at Factories in the area. Three of the Notices referred to the cleanliness, lack of light, etc., to Sanitary conveniences and the remaining Notice was in respect of a bakehouse. All the Notices were complied with.

Section D—Housing

Provision of New Houses

The progress made in the Council's Housing Programme during the year 1952 reads as follows :

By Local Authority :				
Permanent Houses	...	...	...	38
By Private Enterprise :				
Permanent Houses	...	...	...	4
				—
			TOTAL	... 42
				—

During the year the following action was taken with regard to houses which were considered to be incapable of repair at reasonable cost :

Section II—Housing Act, 1936.

No. 39 Brooks Lane	—Condemned — Tenant rehoused — house partly demolished.
Nos. 2 & 4 Brooks Lane	Undertaking accepted from the owners agreeing to demolish when vacated. Tenants rehoused by the Council.
Nos. 14, 16, 18 & 20 Nantwich Road, and Nos. 2, 4, 6 & 8 Newton Bank	These houses, which were owned by a ' Friendly ' Society, were considered incapable of being made habitable at a reasonable cost. As a result of meetings with the owners, the Council agreed to purchase the property and land for £50, with a view to clearance of the site and re-use of the land. At the end of the year, the property was in process of being conveyed and 4 of the houses had become vacant

The houses in the district were adequately inspected during the year by the Sanitary Inspector, and the following notices were complied with :

Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Closets	...	...	...	...	14
Repairs to Roofs and Spouting	...	...	...	...	12
Bedroom Floors	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Firegrates	...	...	...	...	6
Repairs to Windows	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Plasterwork	...	...	...	...	4
Renewal of Sinks	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repointed	...	...	...	...	4
Dustbins renewed	...	...	...	...	105
Verminous houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	8

6 Statutory Notices and 148 Informal Notices were issued and complied with during the year.

Section E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

During the year 21 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results :

(1) Graded Milks for compliance with prescribed standards:

			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised Milk	10	1
T.T. Pasteurised Milk	5	—
T.T. Milk	2	2

(2) Cleanliness Tests of Ungraded Milks

...	1	—
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One sample of milk was submitted to the Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, with negative result.

Two dealers are licensed to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milks. Another Dealer was issued with Supplementary Licences to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milk. There is only one Dealer in the area retailing milk which is ungraded.

(b) Meat

There is one licensed slaughterhouse for “Casualties” and one other licensed for the slaughter of pigs. Both have been maintained in a cleanly condition.

Carcases inspected and condemned at the Casualty Slaughterhouse.

	Cows	Pigs	Calves
Number killed and inspected	62	10	56
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :			
Whole carcasses condemned	3	1	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.....	16.13%	10%	5.36%
Tuberculosis only :			
Whole carases condemned	4	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis	17.74%	—	—

(c) Other Foods and Ice Cream

All premises where food is prepared or handled have been regularly inspected throughout the year and as a result improvements were effected at two bakehouses and two other food premises cleansed and limewashed.

Generally a satisfactory state of cleanliness exists at the various food premises. Bye-Laws under Section 15—Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the clean handling of food—appear to have been fully observed and it is pleasing to note that all shops continue to display the notice card issued last year requesting owners of dogs not to bring them into the premises in which food is sold.

There is no ice cream manufactured in the district (neither hot nor cold mix) and the only ice cream sold is wrapped or in tubs, cartons, etc.

Five samples of Ice Cream in the Middlewich Urban District were taken during the year, four of which were provisional Grade 1 and one Grade 3.

Condemnation Notes were issued in respect of the following :

52 lb. Tinned Ham
 40 tins other Meat
 74 lb. Rabbits
 22 tins Baby Food
 15 tins Peas
 4 tins Milk
 21 tins Tomatoes
 3 tins Salmon
 8 tins Pineapple
 15 tins Oranges
 3 tins Grapes
 30 tins Strawberries
 4 tins Pears
 1 tin Prunes
 3 tins Marmalade
 1 tin Plums
 32 tins Cherries
 1 tin Lobster
 31 lb. Sausages

In addition, the following based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1952 :

Name of Sample				No. adulterated or not Number up to the recognised Obtained standard of quality	
Beef suet with flour	...	...		1	—
Blancmange powder	...	...		1	—
Calomine Lotion	...	...		1	—
Castor oil	...	...	...	1	—
“ Cheese Spread ”	...	...		1	—
Coffee (ground)	...	...	...	1	—
Friars Balsam	...	...	...	1	—
Glucose	...	...	...	1	—
Milk (fresh)	...	...	...	14	—
Saccharin tables	...	...		1	—
Whiskey	..	...	...	1	—
TOTAL				24	—

It is very satisfactory to note that all samples were found to be genuine.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Whilst the Sandbach Sanitary Inspector was on holiday, the Council's Sanitary Inspector took over the inspection of meat at the M.O.F. Slaughterhouse at Sandbach for two weeks.

Section F—Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

(1) There were no cases of Infectious Diseases reported during the year.

(2) **Tuberculosis**

The table below details the age of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis:

TUBERCULOSIS									
New cases and Mortality during 1952									
Age Perion		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

Number of Patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years :

1941	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
50	60	58	48	48	43	46	44	45	27	29

During 1952, 3 cases were admitted to and 4 discharged from Sanatoria.

B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination of contacts to cases of tuberculosis in the Middlewich Urban District has been carried out during the year, both at the local Chest Clinic and at the local Child Welfare Centre.

In addition, 3 Middlewich contacts to cases of tuberculosis were referred to the Chest Physician by me for X-ray and observation after preliminary tests had shown that they had been already infected with the germs of tuberculosis.

(3) Mass Radiography

A further visit of the Regional Hospital Board's Mass Radiography Unit to the town was made during November/December and is reported upon provisionally as follows :

The Unit visited 8 centres and X-rayed the following :

		M.	F.	Total
Persons employed	...	874	600	1474
School Children	...	38	53	91
Public	... ..	105	191	296
		—	—	—
	TOTAL ...	1017	844	1861
		—	—	—

The average response of persons employed was as follows :

		M.	F.	Total
Available	... ..	1156	854	2010
Response	... ..	874	600	1474
Percentage	... ..	75.6%	70.2%	73.3%

Of the 1861 examined on 35 m.m. film, 91 were recalled for large films—a recall rate of 4.8%

(4) Disinfection and Disinfestation

The disinfection of 4 homes was carried out during the year in connection with cases of Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection or destruction of the bedding.

Six other houses were treated for infestation by bugs.



I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the members of the Council and officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B.,M.R.C.S.,D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1953.

N.B.—By the time this report returns from press, the removal of the combined Divisional and M.O.H. Office from its present quarters at Whitehall to Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, where other County Health Services are already established, will no doubt have taken place.

